



GOSPEL HARVESTERS
INTERNATIONAL



Points of Interest:

- **Thanksgiving**
- **Your Time**

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Staying in Touch

Volume 12 - Issue 12

December 2019

Dear Friends:

Dottie and I trust you've had a great season of Thanksgiving within your families and personally! As we look ahead, we begin a season of celebration of the World's Only Savior, Jesus Christ, who in His own words said, *I have come to seek and save sinners* and become Lord and Master over our lives.



I was saved in December, 1966 but moving on 12 years later, I am reminded of a conference I attended in 1978 where I heard Major Ian Thomas say, *Jesus Christ, never ever less than God came to earth to be never ever more than man; and sinful man, never ever more than man, struts around as if he were never ever less than God!* It was there that God began to peel me like an onion, revealing what was in my heart that needed to go, for Him to be in me, everything that He had purposed before the foundations of the world!

I surrendered my life to the ministry that year and began to see how God could supernaturally perform through us what is now GHI! He did it little by little, the same way He told Moses to possess the land of Canaan and 42 years later as we close out 2019, GHI and their nearly 100 missionaries have:

- 1) from 1990, planted over 450 churches throughout the world;
- 2) penetrated and seen fruit in 17 unreached people groups;
- 3) in 2002, established what is now a Bible College and Seminary in India, with 54 students presently attending; and
- 4) in 2005, established an orphanage in India where 34 children are loved and cared for!

I bring all this to your attention, because those of you who are reading this Christmas letter, have taken ownership of it with us through your faithful prayers and giving to make it all happen.

It's exciting to see what God has done, looking back over the last 42 years! What's more, He has done all this debt-free! We owe no one but the debt of love. We have day by day followed the paradigm of the China Inland Mission, when its founder, J. Hudson Taylor uttered these words in a mission conference, *God is too wise a God to ever initiate anything that would be frustrated (limited or diminished) by the lack of finances!* Those of you who read this, have literally make this happen over the years; and because we have seen His faithfulness worked out and through all of us, we continue by faith to walk this out, finishing our race, *looking unto Him, the author and finisher of our faith!*

So, in closing, as we're asking our God to assist us in finishing the year in a strong financial position, please pray with us to this end.

Now some thoughts from Dottie...

From Dottie—Whose hand holds your time?

The year is drawing quickly to a close and soon we will be in 2020. Where does the time go? What happened to all those things I was going to accomplish in 2019. In quiet reflection I have asked myself where has this year gone. It was just yesterday when it began. There is a scripture that often comes to mind when I think about my time. Psalm 31:14-15 says, "But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, you are my God. My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me." And yet I wonder if I have truly lived 2019 as if each moment was a moment to be used by God for His purposes.



Even as I thought on my personal hustle and bustle of Christmas and all the things I still need to check off my list one by one, I was reminded of "Christmas Past" as I thought about a phone call I got several years ago from one of our grandsons. He had a school assignment to interview someone older (he immediately thought of me) about how they celebrated Christmas when they were a child. As he asked the questions and I thought of my answers, I realized how different things are—the school plays about Jesus – the steady stream of carolers by your home each night the week before Christmas – the families that dropped by as families with Christmas goodies baked in their kitchens – the giving of gifts to the needy by all - the closing of shops so all could celebrate – the increase of services in our churches to encourage all - the hours spent on hand made gifts from the heart – families that put aside every other activity to be together – the reading of the scripture before the opening of gifts. It was a time of celebrating Jesus.

What's different? I think perhaps "my time in my hands" makes it different.

Everything is quicker – fast food – fast travel – instant communication – on-line shopping – in home entertainment. Everything that can be thought of to save us time is in operation and yet the year goes by and we fail to accomplish what we intended because of "time".

Could it be that the "**Babe of Christmas**" came to put meaning into our "time" - to give reason for our living - to teach us of eternal things – to bring us to the place of giving ourselves to Him rather than filling our lives with all the "things" the world pressures us to get done or to participate in? Could it be that the "**Babe of Christmas**" wants to rescue us from the enemy and those who pursue us?

It's Christmas time - the time of celebration of the most magnificent gift ever given - the time of receiving the gift with thanksgiving and joy and the spirit of Christmas – the spirit of giving ourselves to Him so the world can see a life whose steps are ordered by the Lord.

Jesus is the reason for this season –everything else pales in comparison! Luke 3:4b, in speaking of Jesus says, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him." It is my heart's cry for each of us that we use this time, this Christmas time, **THIS TIME OF CELEBRATING THE COMING OF JESUS**, as a preparation time for the days ahead so that as we approach the New Year, it will be with the keen awareness of Whose hands I want to control my "time".

For when "my times are in His hands" all that needs to be accomplished IS!

God bless each of you during this Christmas time and in the coming year.



Mack and Dottie

Joy to the World!